

Vol. 33, No. 18.---Price Two Pence.

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1818.

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TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition of William Cobbett of Botley, in the County of Southampton, now generally residing at North Hampstead, in Queen's County, in the State of New York, but, at present, on this 7th day of March, 1818, being at Bustleton, in the State of Pennsylvania,

Most humbly sheweth,

That it is impossible for your humble Petitioner to reflect on the character of your Honourable House without feelings of respect and veneration, and especially when he thinks of any of those numerous acts, in which your justice and humanity shine forth with such peculiar lustre. Deeply impressed with these feelings, he now begs to be permitted to approach your Honourable House, and, with the greatest humility, to present at the threshold of that far-famed sanctuary of the laws, his humble supplications and prayers relative to the operations of one branch, or department, of

that system of treachery and cruelty, which has been, and, as he fears, still is, carried on in his unhappy native country, and which system has, for its agents, bribers, spies, informers, and prostituted lawyers; purchasers and venders of innocent human blood; and, with regard to the actors in which horrid traffick, your humble Petitioner has recently received some particular and authentic information, which he beseeches your Honourable House to be graciously pleased to condescend to permit him to communicate.

Your humble Petitioner, therefore, proceeds most respectfully to state; that happening to be, a few days past, in the City of Philadelphia, he saw there two of his Countrymen, the one named William Stevens, late an inhabitant of Nottingham, and the other named Charles Pendrill, late a citizen and inhabitant of London; that these men related to your humble Petitioner many facts relative to the conduct of one William Oliver; that your humble Petitioner suggested to them that it was their duty to state the said facts in an authentic and solemn manner; that they, in consequence of this suggestion, drew

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up their statements in writing; that these statements, so drawn up, were duly authenticated on oath before the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and the Mayor's identity, signature and act were certified by the English Consul resident at Philadelphia; that these documents were then delivered into the hands of your Petitioner, and that he now attaches them to this his humble petition.

Your Petitioner, in submitting these authentic papers to your Honourable House, in humbly placing in your undefiled hands these proofs of the instigation of a spy to the commission of those acts, for which Brandreth and Turner and Ludlam were hanged and beheaded, begs to be permitted, at the same time, to supplicate your Honourable House to condescend to listen, for a few moments, to a statement of the motives which have induced your Petitioner thus to trespass on the time of your Honourable House, of the inestimable value, of the indescribable preciousness, of which time no being in this world can be more deeply sensible than is your humble Petitioner, from whose mind neither time nor space can obliterate a recollection of the wisdom, the magnanimity, the justice, the humanity, or the manifold blessed effects, of your deeds.

Your Petitioner, always alive

to the interests of his country, had observed, that, at the trial of Brandreth and his associates, there had been *ten* Crown Lawyers, paid out of the taxes, employed *against* the prisoners, and that there had been *two* Lawyers, the leader of whom was a Mr. Cross of Manchester, assigned by the Judges for the *defence* of the prisoners. Your Petitioner had observed that this Mr. Cross had thought it consistent with his duty to set forth, that the prisoners had been instigated to commit the crime of which they stood charged (and which crime was alledged to have been committed in June 1817) by certain printed papers, and especially by one printed paper,\* published during the month of November, 1816. Your Petitioner, who had long paid particular attention to the printed papers mentioned and referred to by the said Cross, had never been able to discover any expression in them, calculated to stir men up to acts of violence of any sort; but, on the contrary, as far as his humble capacity enabled him to judge, those printed papers appeared to have a directly opposite tendency.

Your Petitioner, therefore, naturally concluded, that the said Cross must have thus acted at the instigation of some person, or

\* Mr. Cobbett's Address to the Journeymen and Labourers.

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persons, who wished to produce a general persuasion, that the alledged treason of Brandreth and his associates had proceeded from the reading of printed papers, and that the said persons wished to produce this persuasion in order to pave the way for a *Censorship or Supervision of the Press*, or, at least, for the supervision, or suppression, of that part of the press, of which the said Cross had so falsely spoken so manifestly to the injury of the cause of the men who had the misfortune to be his clients. This conclusion was strengthened and confirmed in the mind of your Petitioner by the following circumstances; to wit: in a few days after the execution of Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam, it was announced, as *from authority*, in several diurnal prints, but especially in two, one called the *Sun* and the other called the *Courier*, that it was intended to propose to the parliament to adopt measures for *wholly extinguishing* the writings and publications of which the said Cross had complained, and, in one of these prints, it was explicitly stated, that a *Supervision of the Press* was intended but that the said Supervision was to be confined to *weekly* publications, and was not intended to controul, or check, the writings and publications of the *Opposition*, which writings and publications were, it was said, *useful to the ministers*. Your Petitioner begs leave to recite the very words of the pub-

lication, of which he is here speaking, in order that no doubt, as to its true meaning, may remain in the mind of your Honourable House: "*Liberty of the Press*.—"The proposed supervision of the press by the Crown lawyers, which we were the first to communicate to the public from authority, is not intended to apply so much to diurnal newspapers, as to those *weekly* effusions of sedition, which have too long been suffered to pass with impunity. But the *opposition* writers in general seem to have taken the alarm, though they can have nothing to fear while they refrain from Jacobinical violence and artifice, and offer reasonable and well-founded objections to the measures of Government. Those who would wish to prevent a *liberal* and *candid* discussion of public measures, and wholly to silence an *opposition* press, can be no friends to their country, and can never be the objects of patronage to any administration that regard their own true interest, and the approbation of the people!"—About the time that this notification was published in the *Sun* newspaper, which was in the month of November last, 1817, a meeting was held at Manchester, at which the notorious *Colonel Fletcher* presided, and at this meeting was given, as a toast, the following words; to wit: "May the licentiousness of the Press be

"speedily regulated by the Legislature."

When your Honourable House shall, in your great desire to know the truth and your desire not less great to protect his Majesty's suffering subjects against the effect of the machinations of spies big and little, be pleased to consider well *who and what this Colonel Fletcher is and what have been his deeds*, especially during the last seven years, your Petitioner is sure that your Honourable House will not be surprized, that your Petitioner could want nothing further to confirm him in the opinion and conviction, that the aforesaid false imputations of the afore named Cross, who lived in the same town where the above recited toast was given, were intended to pave the way for a *Censorship or Supervision* of the press, as far, at least, as might be necessary to silence every writer not receiving, or labouring to receive, the wages of Corruption; and your petitioner is sure that your Honourable House, when you shall have been pleased well to consider all the circumstances, will, though the thought may freeze you with horror, strongly suspect, *that the lives of Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam were, in part, at least, sacrificed to the hoped-for attainment of the same object!*

In addition to the above-mentioned circumstances your humble Petitioner had perceived, that

*Brandreth and Turner* had, with their dying breath, imputed the acts they had committed to *Oliver and the Government*, and that they had been cut short in their address to the people by means not to be thought of without horror inexpressible. Your Petitioner had perceived, that these unfortunate men had a deep and just sense of moral and religious obligations. Your Petitioner had perceived, that their friends had been kept from free intercourse with them during the last few days of their lives. Your Petitioner had perceived, that no intelligence of their confessions, or words, was suffered to transpire, except through those channels which were calculated to give countenance to the opinion that Cross aforesaid had justly described the cause of their alledged crime. Your Petitioner had perceived (and with great indignation) that they had been allowed but a few moments to utter their dying words, and *that the usual time allowed for prayer at the place of execution, had been purposely curtailed upon this particular occasion.* Your Petitioner had perceived, that, in spite of all these precautions, it became necessary to drown their voices and to strangle them with the words in their throats, in order to prevent them from fully declaring, in the face of God and on the verge of eternity, that they had been instigated by an *inflammatory and treacherous spy* and not by the reading of any printed

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paper whatsoever. Your Petitioner having perceived these things, he, when he heard the truth of the dying words of the victims confirmed so fully by the statement of one Charles Pendrill and William Stevens, <sup>and</sup> ~~one~~ of them until now, and the other until of late, total strangers to him, and both of them coming to him and accidentally relating to him the facts contained in their respective statements: Your Petitioner having thus perceived and thus heard, thought himself bound in duty to his countrymen and to the king, to obtain those statements, in manner and form aforementioned, and to transmit them, accompanied with this his humble Petition, to your Honourable House.

Your Petitioner begs humbly to intreat your Honourable House to consider, that the men who have made these statements, have made them on their oaths; that the act was perfectly voluntary on their part; that they have nothing to hope and nothing to fear as to the power of any man, or body of men, in their native country; that they are in that state of life where their labour affords them an abundance of every thing that they want, and that they have the happiness to live under a government, which leaves them to enjoy the fruits of their labour. Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly presumes to believe, that your

Honourable House will not doubt the truth of these statements, which, as far as he is able to judge, contain the best possible evidence of which the case can, by any fair construction of law, be supposed to admit; and, if this reasoning be correct, your Petitioner hopes, that your Honourable House will clearly perceive, that, though the Writings, mentioned and referred to by the aforementioned Cross, had been in circulation from the month of November 1816, no thought of resistance in arms existed amongst the companions of the victims until after the passing of the Absolute-Power-of-Imprisonment Act and the Acts curtailing the Liberty of Speech and of the Press in March 1817. Your Honourable House will perceive, that even after the passing of these Acts, after the issuing of the Circular of Lord Sidmouth, and even after the actual imprisonment of numerous persons under the Absolute-Power-of-Imprisonment Act, *no plan of resistance in arms* was formed amongst those people, who finally gave into such a plan, until the instigation of Oliver began to operate. Your Honourable House will perceive, that not only was the resistance in arms the work of Oliver, but that the time, place, and manner, and immediate inducement and motive, were all of his suggestion and instigation. Your Honourable House will perceive, that the employers of Oliver must have been

regularly informed, almost from day to day, of the forwardness of his plans, of the state of the intended revolt, and of all the preparatory measures. Your Honourable House will perceive, that the employers of Oliver were exactly told the moment for seizing Mitchell to prevent him from finding out and exposing the treachery of Oliver. Your Honourable House will perceive how punctually the employers of Oliver fell upon the men in Yorkshire just in time to prevent their joining the men in Nottingham and Derby Shires. Your Honourable House will perceive how precisely in time Oliver drew towards London, leaving his victims successively in the traps that he had prepared for them. Your Honourable House will perceive, and your Petitioner hopes, will perceive with horror, that one part, at least, of Oliver's business at Liverpool was to bring his generous benefactor, Mr. Pendrill, to an ignominious death. Your Honourable House will perceive, that, at any period of the long-procrastinated preparations for resistance in arms, the employers of Oliver might, in an hour, have put a total stop to those preparations, and have blown them to air. And, therefore, your Petitioner is sure, that your Honourable House will clearly perceive, that those employers of this perfidious and bloody-minded wretch, wished, not to prevent, but to produce,

those acts, for being concerned in which Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam perished upon the scaffold.

As to the motive, on the part of the employers of Oliver, for this treacherous, dastardly and murderous proceeding, your Petitioner is sure, that your Honourable House will, at once, perceive, that it was threefold: first, to afford a colour of justification for those false charges against the Press and the Reformers, upon which the Absolute-power-of-imprisonment and other new Acts had been founded; second, to afford a pretext for keeping in force the first-mentioned Act, all the others having a more permanent duration, and that Act being about to expire at the time when the rising in Derbyshire was instigated; and, thirdly, to prepare the way for a total destruction of the freedom of the Press by the enactment of a *Censorship* or *Supervision* on the Bourbon model.

*Machiavel*, in giving us the marks and characters, by which tyrants may be known, says, "They accomplish their ends much more by fraud than by force. Neither virtue nor force is so necessary to that purpose as a lucky craft, which, without force, has been often found sufficient, but never force without that." *Plato* says, that "Tyrants suffer no assemblies, not

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“so much as those for amusement.  
 “They *impoverish the people* that  
 “they may want the power, if  
 “they have the will, to attempt  
 “any thing against them. They  
 “stir not without a *guard*. In all  
 “places they have their *spies and*  
 “*informers to appear discontented*  
 “*and to hate the tyrants*, in order  
 “that, under this disguise, they  
 “may get *trust and make discove-*  
 “*ries*. They, above all things,  
 “*pretend a love to God and Reli-*  
 “*gion*.” And this *Aristotle* calls  
 “the surest and best of all the arts  
 “of tyrants.”

Your humble Petitioner will not longer trespass on the time of your Honourable House by stating what were the *remedies*, which these and other ancient Philosophers and Lawgivers laid down as proper to be used against tyrants, those remedies being clearly pointed out in the Word of God itself; but, under a profound sense of his unworthiness to have so long encroached on the well-known indulgence of your Honourable House, he hastens to conclude with praying, that your Honourable House will, in your great and proverbial benevolence, be pleased to take the premises into your serious consideration, and that your Honourable House will cause enquiry to be made into the origin and progress of those transactions, in

consequence of the part they took in which, Brandreth, Turner and Ludlam were brought to the block.

And your Petitioner,

As in humble duty bound,

Will ever pray,

WM. COBBETT \*.

BRITISH CONSUL'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA.

Know all persons to whom these Presents shall come, that I, Gilbert Robertson, Esq. his Britannic Majesty's Consul for the City of Philadelphia, do hereby certify, That Robert Wharton, Esq. is Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and that the annexed Certificate subscribed by him and to which the Seal of the Mayoralty of said City is affixed (to the Affidavit of William Stevens also annexed), is entitled to full faith and credit.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, the United States of America, the 6th day of March, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen.

GILBERT ROBERTSON.

\* The foregoing Petition with the annexed Documents were presented to the “Honourable House” by Lord COCHRANE, on Thursday last, the 14th instant. But, the “Honourable House” first caused the Documents to be *detached*, and then, after having heard the Petition read, refused to let it lie on the Table, because it referred to the Documents which accompanied it!!!

*Deposition of William Stevens, late of the Town of Nottingham, England, Needle Maker.*

This Deponent saith, that he lived in Nottingham until the month of June last past, and that he, with divers others, had, for a long while, been discussing the subject of Parliamentary Reform, and had been very desirous to see such reform, thinking it absolutely necessary for the good of the country. He saith, that, until after the passing of the Suspension and other violent Acts, in the month of March 1817, he never heard any person propose, or hint at, any measure of resistance in arms on the part of the people; but, that, after those acts had been passed, he himself, as well as many hundreds of others, and, as he believes, many Thousands, said, that, as the laws of the Land were now destroyed, as there was now no safety for any man, and as the people were not allowed even to petition, it was time to *resist*, or, if not, to make up our minds to die slaves.

This Deponent saith, that this was the way of thinking of a great part of the people in his Town in the months of March, April, and May 1817. He saith that all, whom he intimately knew, said, that *the time to resist was come*, seeing that the Fundamental Laws of the Country were subverted. He saith, that, though this was the general opinion, and though the means of resistance were anxiously wished for, and though the people were quite willing to resist the terrible oppressions of the Government, yet that *no plan* of resistance

was formed until some time in the month of May 1817.

This Deponent saith, that, some time in April 1817, a *Mr. Mitchell* went through Nottingham, and, as he said, on his way to London. And now a series of transactions took place, which ended in the measures of resistance at Pentridge and South Wingfield, and of which transactions, as far as came to his knowledge, the following is an account, to wit;—Soon after *Mr. Mitchell* left Nottingham, he wrote to Nottingham from London, that he had formed a connection with a person of the name of *Oliver*, and he said, that *Oliver* would accompany him to the country, and that they would be at Folly Hall, near Huddersfield, on a certain day, when there would be a Meeting, to which we ought to send a Deputy. In consequence of this intimation, *Thomas Bacon* was sent from Nottingham, to the Meeting at Folly Hall. Neither *Mitchell* nor *Oliver* came to the meeting at Folly Hall, and *Thomas Bacon* returned to Nottingham. And another letter now came from *Mitchell*, informing us, that there was to be a meeting at Wakefield on a day named, at which *Oliver* would be present, and this letter which *Mitchell* told us he wrote at the request of *Oliver*, desired us to send a deputy to the meeting. *Thomas Bacon* was sent again, and when he returned, he told us, that he had seen *Oliver* at the meeting. *Mitchell* was not at the meeting, as *Thomas Bacon* informed us, and we afterwards found, that he had been taken up. *Thomas Bacon's* report to us was, that *Oliver* proposed a general rising, to take place



on the 26th of May, and that he strongly recommended us all to be ready for that day, when his friends in London would be ready. The 26th of May was, he said, the best time, because, as he said, a part of the army would be reduced on the 24th of May, particularly 5,000 men, who had just been brought home from France. When Thomas Bacon made this report to us, Brandreth, Turner, and Ludlam, were present, as well as a great many more persons; and it was agreed on amongst us to be ready for the 26th of May. Some time, perhaps about five or six days, before the 26th of May, a letter from our friends at Sheffield came to Nottingham, informing us, that the rising had been put off to the 9th of June in consequence of the advice of Oliver. Thomas Bacon was now sent off to Sheffield to ascertain the reason for this putting off. He came back very speedily and told us, that Oliver had been at Sheffield, and had prevailed on the people to put off the rising to the 9th of June, because the nights would then be dark, and because the whole country would, by that time, be in a more perfect state for rising; and Bacon told us that Oliver had left word, that he was gone to London, to see how preparations were going on there, and to settle matters so that all might rise together. In consequence of all this, preparations continued to be made in Nottingham and the neighbourhood until the day of rising.

In the meanwhile, that is to say, on the 1st or 2d day of June, Oliver came to Nottingham, and he came to the house of this deponent. He said, that all would be ready in London for the

9th of June, and that that would be a very good time, because it would be the time of the trial of Dr. Watson and his associates, and it would be blood for blood. He said that the Londoners would not stop at a *Reform*, that they looked upon that as childish work, and were resolved to have nothing but a *Pure Democracy*. One of our friends, who was at deponent's house at the time, said that he disapproved of this, and, that we in the country, only wanted a reform of abuses and fair play, such as would enable us to live upon our labour. This man's name was *Crabtree*. Oliver then told us, that we should soon have all in our power, and might stop where we liked. He assured us that the people of Birmingham were ready, and that the people of Wolverhampton had volunteered to take *Wedon Barracks*; but, that they wished to get some information as to the interior state of the Barracks, and he asked us, if we could not send somebody to go in and look about them. In consequence of this, we raised some money amongst us to send for this purpose a man from Derby, who had a brother who was a Soldier in the Barracks. Oliver had a meeting with us now, at which meeting Brandreth and Turner, and many others were present. At this meeting he laid before us a paper which he called a *Plan of the Campaign*, and which he said had been agreed upon at Birmingham.

When Oliver had thus settled every thing with us, he prepared to set off to organize things in Yorkshire, that all might be ready to move in the Country at the moment that the rising took place in London, where he told us there

were *Fifty Thousand Men* with arms prepared, and that they would take the Tower. He brought a number of the Black Dwarf and read it to the meeting, and told us, that Mr. Wooler was coming down in the Country, and that he was then at work in London printing the Proclamations to be issued by the Provisional Government. He further told us, that it had been settled at Birmingham, that all the people in the Country, who could not get arms elsewhere, were to go to Birmingham and get arms.

It was agreed between Oliver and us, that there should be a meeting at Sheffield to be called *a Convention*. This was to be on Saturday, the 7th of June. When it had met, the members were to separate and go to the several great Towns; and the members were to go, not to their own places of abode, but to other places, in order that mutual confidence might be established, and in order that true information might be interchanged by these means. The members thus dispersed were to remain at the stations, to which they were sent, in order to keep open and easy the channels of communication.

When all this was settled Oliver set off for Sheffield, and this Deponent being chosen as a member of the Convention, set off for Sheffield on the morning of the 7th of June. At about eight miles from Nottingham this Deponent met some Travellers, who told him, that there had been some people taken up at and near Sheffield and other parts not far off. Deponent, however, kept on his way, till at the end of about seventeen miles, he was overtaken by a Boy on

horse-back, who brought him a message, which induced him to return home. At his own house he found Oliver, who now said, that some treachery had taken place in Yorkshire; but that, as all was ready in London, all would go on well, if they did but remain firm to their promises at Nottingham and in Derbyshire. A meeting now took place, at which Oliver was present. He solemnly assured the meeting that all was ready, and that the blow would be struck in London on the 9th of June, but that it was necessary for him to go off to London to give the risers in London an assurance of the hearty co-operation of the Country. Accordingly Oliver went off for London on the Sunday morning the 8th of June, after which this Deponent saw him no more.

This Deponent, firmly persuaded, that he had a right to do all he did, and conscious of never having harboured any design of a Treasonable nature, has no sorrow to express for the part he took in the aforementioned transactions. Soon after his arrival in America he wrote to Lord Viscount Sidmouth to assure him, that *Francis Ward* of Nottingham, who had been imprisoned after the 9th of June, had never taken any part in these transactions; that he was perfectly innocent of every thing of the sort, and that as Francis Ward is a most honest, humane, and virtuous Man, his imprisonment had given this Deponent very great pain. These declarations respecting Francis Ward this Deponent now repeats upon his oath, which oath he makes with a deep sense of the infamy and all the other awful con-



sequences attendant on wilful and deliberate false swearing.

WILLIAM STEVENS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
City of Philadelphia.*

I, Robert Wharton, Esq. Mayor and Chief Magistrate of the City aforesaid, do hereby certify and make known, that on the day of the date hereof personally appeared before me the above named William Stevens, who, being duly sworn according to Law, did declare and say that the facts set forth in the foregoing statement, and by him subscribed, are, as he verily believes, just and true.

In faith and testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this fifth day of March, A. D. One thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

ROBERT WHARTON, Mayor.

BRITISH CONSUL'S OFFICE, PHILADELPHIA.

Know all persons to whom these presents shall come, that I, Gilbert Robertson, Esq. his Britannic Majesty's Consul for the City of Philadelphia, do hereby certify, that Robert Wharton, Esq. is Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and that the annexed Certificate subscribed by him to the affidavit of Charles Pendrill, also annexed, and to which the Seal of the Mayoralty of said City is affixed, is entitled to full faith and credit.

Given under my hand and Seal of Office, at the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, the United

States of America, the 6th Day of March, One Thousand Eight-hundred and Eighteen.

GILBERT ROBERTSON.

*The Deposition of Charles Pendrill, late of Newgate Street, in the City of London, Boot and Shoe Maker.*

This Deponent saith, that he first became acquainted with William Oliver, in the beginning of the Year 1811, at which time Oliver was Foreman to Mr. Restall, a Carpenter, in Lemon Street, Goodman's Fields, in which situation Oliver continued about twelve months after this deponent became acquainted with him; that, in consequence of some quarrel between Oliver and his employer, a law suit arose between them, and the result was great pecuniary embarrassment to Oliver, who was soon after imprisoned for debt; that this deponent and some others made a subscription to support him and to redeem his household goods, which had been seized for Rent; that when Oliver applied for his release under the Insolvent Act, the money to defray the expences of that process was raised in the same manner; that upon Oliver's liberation (in the latter part of 1816) he affected to be overwhelmed with gratitude towards this deponent; that, soon after this, he began to make very vehement professions of patriotism, and expressed uncommon anxiety to know whether there were any Political Associations into which he might obtain admittance; that, at his request, this deponent accompanied Oliver to the Spa-fields Meeting on the 2d of December, where he appeared to be lost in enthusiasm; that from this time, he became

very importunate in his inquiries as to whether any thing was doing, expressing his indignation at the thought, that we should wait and quietly go to prison under the Suspension Act, without a single effort to save ourselves.

On the 12th of March this deponent left his house, to which he returned on the 13th, when he found that some persons, whom he suspected to be King's Messengers, had been at his house to inquire for him. This deponent, though concerned in no riot or plot, had been very active in assisting Dr. Watson and his associates in providing legal advisers and other means necessary to their defence at the Old Bailey; he had been with the brave Cashman, a few days before, in his condemned cell; and he had good reason to believe himself suspected of having assisted in the secreting of the younger Watson; therefore, though conscious of his perfect innocence as to any Treasonable act or design, he could see no safety for himself in the absence of all the laws made for the protection of men's persons; and, to avoid a lingering death, under every species of cruelty and insult, in his native country, he resolved on flight to a foreign land, that he might still be able to provide for his wife and family there, until, at least, something like freedom should be restored to England.

As a measure of safety previous to his flight, this deponent resided in secret at the houses of different friends, where Oliver was very assiduous in his attentions to this deponent; he

frequently visited this deponent, expressed the utmost indignation against the Government, and urged this deponent to think of some mode of obtaining vengeance; but this deponent uniformly answered, that he was resolved on leaving the country. On the 12th of April, which was the day previous to this deponent's leaving London, Mr. Mitchell of Manchester arrived in London, not thinking it safe to remain in the Country. While Mr. Mitchell was in conversation with this deponent on the means of getting safely out of the country, Oliver arrived, and expressed his wonder that we should suffer so tamely. He declared his determination not to live any longer in a state of such degradation; and he begged of this deponent to lend a hand, proposing, that he (Oliver) and Mr. Mitchell, should go and raise an insurrection in the Country, while the people of London assassinated the whole of the Ministers and also the leaders of the Opposition.

This proposition was rejected by this deponent, who told Oliver, that he knew not one man in London likely to join him in the execution of any such project. The next morning this deponent left London for Liverpool, where he immediately engaged his passage for New York; but the wind being foul, he was detained a fortnight at Liverpool. On the 30th of April, to the great surprise of this deponent, he saw Oliver arrive at Liverpool. He told this deponent that he had been at Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Wakefield, and various other places, and had prevailed upon the people

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there to send delegates to a meeting near Huddersfield, and to which he had promised to take this deponent. Upon deponent's telling Oliver that deponent had paid for his passage, Oliver told him, that he was authorised to repay him the amount of the passage money and also that of all deponent's expences. Deponent was much surprized at this plenty of money, and also at seeing Oliver in new clothes, and with all the outward appearance of a gentleman. Upon deponent's refusing to go with Oliver into Yorkshire, the latter begged deponent to introduce him to some friends at Liverpool, who might go with him. Deponent declined to do this also; and Oliver assured deponent at parting, that as soon as things should be organized in the Country, a general rising would take place, and that he should go to London to see the Ministers dispatched. Upon deponent's endeavouring to dissuade him from such an attempt, Oliver declared, that he was tired of his life, and that nothing but death should prevent him from accomplishing his object. Oliver, while at Liverpool, told this deponent, that he had prevailed on Mr. Mitchell to come into the Country with him, and that he had advanced him money to pay his rent, to relieve his wife and children, and to pay his expences.

As to the part, which this deponent took in the transactions above spoken of, he is quite sure, that it was perfectly lawful as well as morally innocent; but, that he may not, by implication, censure his more unfortunate and brave countrymen, he de-

clares, that he holds *resistance of oppression* to be his birthright. He well remembers to have heard, when he was a very young man, Mr. Fox utter, at a public meeting, held to petition against Acts similar to those recently passed, the following words, or words to the same effect:—"If our petition should be rejected, we have still a remedy remaining, *resistance of oppression*, which is the birth-right of every Englishman, and without which he must be a slave. Much as I am attached to the constitution; much as I love the king; much as I revere the nobility: yet, if the people are to be enslaved by the existence of these, I will rather die a republican than submit without resistance."

CHARLES PENDRILL.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
City of Philadelphia.*

I, Robert Wharton, Esq. Mayor and Chief Magistrate of the City aforesaid, do hereby certify and make known, that on the day of the date hereof personally appeared before me the above named Charles Pendrill, who being duly sworn according to law, did declare and say, that the facts set forth in the foregoing statement, and by him subscribed, are, as he verily believes, just and true.

In faith and testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the City to be affixed, this fifth day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

ROBERT WHARTON, Mayor.

## TO THE PUBLISHER.

SIR—In Number 14 of Vol. 33, of the Political Register, I observe that Mr. Cobbett requests those persons who have suffered under the late Suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act to send him the particulars of their respective treatments, and as my case, from certain causes, seems to be one of the worst, I will state it, and you may depend upon its truth, and use it in any way you think proper. On Sunday the 9th of March, 1817, I was arrested early in the morning while in bed, by warrant from Lord Sidmouth, charging me with a suspicion of High Treason, which was in every respect false, as the event has proved. I was immediately conveyed to prison in Manchester, and placed in confinement among felons till Tuesday after three o'clock in the afternoon; nor had I any allowance either in meat or drink for the whole time, save a three-penny pie, ordered at my request by Colonel Sylvester, a magistrate, which I eagerly ate just before I set off for London. I was ironed before the said magistrate with a manacle not less than 30lbs. weight, and treated in the most illiberal and taunting man-

ner, particularly by the notorious J. NADIN, whom I have reason to believe was the informant against me, as he had for six weeks before declared to me, from time to time, that if I did not discontinue my attendance at the public meetings, he would apprehend me. Conscious of the rectitude of my conduct, I disregarded his threat, but on the day before the last meeting, which was on the 10th of March, I was apprehended by the said Nadin as before described. On my applying to be confronted with any informant, I was treated with insult, and posted off to London as before mentioned, and lodged in Horsemonger-lane Gaol. The very ponderous irons I was loaded with, broke my belly, and caused an Hernia to ensue about eight o'clock in the evening when going to bed, and as it was impossible for me to alarm the gaoler, I remained in that dreadful state for more than fifteen hours, in the most excruciating pain and torture. On the turnkey appearing next morning, two surgeons were sent for by Mr. Walters, the Governor, who, after using such means as seemed proper, found nothing would do but the knife, and they apprehended from my age (74)



that I should die under the operation. The pain was so great that I could endure it no longer, and therefore, at all hazards, I insisted on that operation being resorted to, which continued for one hour and forty minutes. Praised be God and the skill of the surgeons, I survived it, contrary however to the surgeons' expectation, and much weakened in my constitution. Mr. Dixon, the surgeon, and his partner performed the operation in the Infirmary of the prison. The wound in my groin was above seven inches in length, and Mr. Dixon had my entrails out of my belly in his fingers like a link of sausages; a circumstance on which the Right Honourable George Canning was afterwards so jocular and entertaining in the House of Commons. Mr. Walters, the Governor, was present during the operation, and as well as the Surgeons can attest the truth of my statement.

Thus have I, at the age of seventy-four, been torn from my family, crushed almost to death with irons, suffered near nine months solitary confinement, and ruined in my employ, as a printer, by the machinations of Ministers, Magistrates, Spies, and Informers; for I declare before God, who is omnipotent, omniscient and

omnipresent, that I had done no wrong. I may add that I am the reputed father of seventeen children, whom I have supported and educated at my own expence, by my own labour, and I may truly say that I have always been a bringer to the general stock, and not like Canning, who has been a taker from it during his whole life.

Having thus attended to Mr. Cobbett's request, I remain with respect,  
Yours, &c.

WM. OGDEN.

26, Wood-Street, Manchester.

#### MR. HUNT AND THE COURIER.

*Extract from the SOUTHERN REPORTER, printed at CORK, May 2d, 1818.*

That a Meeting is to take place at *Spafields*, in the vicinity of London, on Monday next, we have already apprised our Readers, by having inserted in our number of Tuesday, the authorised advertisement, published in some of the London papers, calling the meeting. It appears however that another notice, very differently worded, and of a quite opposite import, has been circulated through the metropolis, with a view, we have no doubt, to render the meeting odious in the estimation of even those persons who are favourable to Reform. The *latter* the *Courier* published in its number of last Monday, accompanied

with some observations, which the Reader will find in a preceding column, although the writer knew well at the time, that the notice upon which he was expending so much gall, was a fabricated document, fabricated too, by some of his own friends, for the purpose of bringing the meeting into disrepute, or afterwards affording a pretext for "vigorous measures." It will be seen that the notice purports to be signed by "HENRY HUNT, Esq. Chairman," whom the *Courier* accuses of being then employed in fomenting the passions of the mob, and otherwise exciting them to acts of desperation and guilt. It is one of the most apt and illustrative commentaries that could possibly be furnished upon the principles of that Journal, its total disregard of truth and individual character when either a private or political object is to be attained, that, at the moment it was thus attributing to

Mr. HUNT all the evil designs it enumerates, that individual was quietly journeying to this Country, and actually arrived in this City on Thursday evening from Youghal, where the *Blucher*, Government Bristol packet, Captain COOKE, had put in that morning. We have not heard that any additional measures of precaution have been taken for the preservation of the peace of the City, in consequence of Mr. HUNT's presence; nor have we heard of any children being frightened at his appearance which is somewhat remarkable too as he is the hero of all the bugaboo nursery stories got up by the *Courier* to keep the naughty boys in order. Mr. HUNT has private affairs to attend to as well as other people, and his journey to this Country, we have heard, is connected with a transaction in which considerable property is involved.

Mr. HUNT left town this morning on his way to Killarney.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.

Printed and Published by and for WM. JACKSON, No. 11, Newcastle Street, Strand; and Sold Wholesale and Retail, No. 192, Strand, London.